

Bringing Them Home 20 years on: an action plan for healing

Stage one priorities

This report, which was informed by the Healing Foundation's Stolen Generations Reference Committee and other Stolen Generations organisations, outlines an action plan for long term and holistic change. As the first stage of taking action, the Healing Foundation has identified four key priorities which can be quickly addressed to build an evidence-based and equitable framework for healing.

Priority One

A comprehensive needs analysis so that we can tailor and deliver more effective services for Stolen Generations members that also represent the best possible return on investment. Right now, we don't know how many Stolen Generations members are still alive, let alone the demographic data that would enable us to optimise service design and delivery.

We do know that needs have changed over the past two decades, as Stolen Generations members reach their elderly years and require specific aged care services.

Priority Two

A national scheme for reparations to ensure equal access to financial redress and culturally appropriate healing services, where state and federal governments - and the institutions that caused the harm - share the cost of the burden.

Some states have recently announced reparation schemes for Stolen Generations members, which suggests a promising level of commitment to an overarching federal scheme.

Priority Three

Coordinated and compulsory training around Stolen Generations trauma so that the organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are better equipped to provide effective and appropriate services. The aim is to ensure that everyone has the skills to identify and appropriately deal with trauma – from police to frontline social and health workers, and staff at every level within key policy and provider organisations.

Priority Four

A comprehensive study of intergenerational trauma and how we can effectively tackle it. Measures to deal with intergenerational trauma need to underpin future strategies addressing social and health problems in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including suicide, domestic violence, substance abuse, incarceration rates and the high numbers of children entering the protection system.



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